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ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Letter dated 28 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the documents adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in South Africa on 1 and 2 April 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Khiphusizi J. JELE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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Annex I

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STATES OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

The representatives of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA - hereafter referred to as "the Zone"), meeting in Somerset West, South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996 and recalling the conclusions of the Third High-Level Meeting, which took place in Brasilia, on 21 and 22 September 1994:

1. Congratulate the Chair and the Bureau of the Permanent Committee of the Zone for their valuable work as Coordinators since the Brasilia meeting;

2. Reaffirm the validity of the Zone as an instrument for promoting understanding and cooperation among South Atlantic countries, as well as for contributing to international peace and security; and agree on the need to strengthen its role as a regional instrument of coordination and dialogue;

3. Decide that cooperation among the countries of the Zone must be pursued in all areas with a potential for joint action and benefit, especially in the economic, technological, environmental, cultural and sporting fields;

4. Reaffirm also that the cooperation in the forum of the Zone is based on the principles of the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and other relevant principles of international law, and the right of all peoples to freely determine their economic and political systems;

5. Reiterate the commitment of the members of the Zone to encourage democracy and political pluralism, to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of these goals;

6. Agree that the Zone has a valuable role to play as a forum for dialogue in multilateral issues, including those relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of international cooperation for economic and social development, the protection of the environment and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations;

7. Reiterate their commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects, with a view to the complete elimination of such weapons, and to the non-introduction of such weapons into the Zone, and in this regard reiterate the validity of the Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the South Atlantic, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Member-States of the Zone, and encourage the Conference on Disarmament to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as soon as possible;

8. Emphasize the importance of the understanding and close cooperation of the countries of the Zone in nuclear matters, which is making possible the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and the conclusion of the Treaty on an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, the Pelindaba Treaty;

9. Welcome the adoption of the final text of the Pelindaba Treaty and call upon all African States and others concerned to sign and ratify the Treaty and its Protocols, in order to expedite its entry into force;

10. Urge the countries possessing weapons of mass destruction to fully respect the status of the Zone as a region free of such weapons;

11. Express their conviction that the Tlatelolco and Pelindaba Treaties, together with the Antarctic Treaty, the Rarotonga Treaty and the recently concluded Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, contribute to make the Southern Hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties free of nuclear weapons;

12. Support efforts by the countries of the Zone in finding negotiated solutions for conflicts and in promoting the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means;

13. Urge all Member States of the Zone to support current peace processes in the region and call upon them to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations taking place in different parts of the Zone;

14. Acknowledge with appreciation the sustained sacrifice and support of the member states of ECOWAS, particularly its Chairman and the other leaders of the sub-region, for their untiring efforts to bring peace to Liberia, and reiterate the call on the international community to honour their commitments towards the implementation of the Abuja Agreement and for the reconstruction of Liberia;

15. Warmly welcome the holding of democratic elections in

the Republic of Benin and in the Republic of Sierra Leone and express the hope that the establishment of new freely elected governments in both countries would enhance peace, security and stability in the sub-region for the socio-economic development of their peoples, as well as reinforce the objectives of the ZPCSA;

16. Call on the parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone to pursue the goals of the Yamoussoukro Peace Process;

17. Welcome the positive steps taken by the Government of Angola in implementing its commitments towards the peace process in Angola; express deep concern at the numerous delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol; and urge UNITA to proceed immediately with the orderly, large-scale and verifiable movement of its troops to quartering areas;

18. Express their appreciation for the support of the international community and the United Nations, in particular the efforts of the Secretary-General and his special representative, to the peace process in Angola and to UNAVEM III, and exhort them to continue to provide their support in the future;

19. Express their willingness to contribute by all means at their disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola and once again invite the international community to provide on a predictable and timely basis the pledged funds for the rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of Angola;

20. Reaffirm the importance of preventive diplomacy, peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building as suitable means for the maintenance of peace and security, while stressing that eradication of poverty and promotion of economic and social development are essential for long-lasting peace and security;

21. Express their conviction of the need for restructuring and revitalisation of the United Nations system and their support for actions intended to strengthen the United Nations in all its aspects, and in this regard encourage ongoing deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council; they also express the need to improve coordination with the institutions created in Bretton Woods and prepare the UN system to meet the needs of the international community in the 21st century;

22. Affirm the increasing importance of greater cooperation in economic and financial matters and the relevance of the "Agenda for Development";

23. Reiterate their conviction that the Uruguay Round agreements should result in greater market access, the expansion of world trade and an increase in income and employment opportunities throughout the world, particularly in developing countries;

24. Express their confidence that, with the functioning of the World Trade Organisation, rapid progress will be made towards abolishing unfair trade practices and unilateral protectionist measures, while taking appropriate steps to protect the legitimate interests of least developed countries;

25. Emphasize the role of regional and subregional integration in improving international competitiveness of national economies and in contributing to the development process;

26. Invite the Academic, Scientific, and Technological communities of the member states to participate in discussions on fostering cooperation in the Zone and pledge their support to the organisation of seminars and other means to improve mutual knowledge;

27. Note with satisfaction progress in the establishment of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries, whose aims coincide with and strengthen the major goals of peace and cooperation in the Zone;

28. Encourage Member States to further investigate and implement means to facilitate business initiative in exploring and expanding regional economic cooperation and commercial links across the South Atlantic, among member states of the Zone;

29. Likewise encourage Member States to facilitate the establishment of sea, air and telecommunications links across the South Atlantic, among member states of the Zone;

30. Urge Member States, within the context of enhancing South-South Cooperation, to pursue regional collaboration in the development of new technologies at both private and public sector levels, sharing of natural resources and international communication systems in both science and technology, and developing human resources in these fields;

31. Express their concern regarding the question of the safe and secure transportation through the South Atlantic of irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high level nuclear radioactive waste in flasks on board ships, which should meet the standards set out by the 1983 International Maritime Organisation Code on the subject;

32. Call on all States to maintain cooperation and exchange of information on the transportation of nuclear material and radioactive waste and to continue working through the International Maritime Organisation and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the development of additional measures which would complement the Code;

33. Affirm their conviction that effective international liability mechanisms are essential to provide compensation for nuclear related damage which may occur during transportation of irradiated nuclear fuel,

plutonium and high-level nuclear waste;

34 Reiterate the importance, for the Zone, of the fulfilment of international environmental agreements, specially those related to climate change; combatting desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, especially in Africa; the protection of the ozone layer; the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity, and transboundary movement of hazardous waste;

35. Reaffirm the importance of the Declaration on the Marine Environment, adopted at the Third Meeting and once again express their support for regional cooperation amongst Member States of the Zone in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982;

36. Emphasize the importance, for the Zone, of the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, related to the conservation and management of straddling fish and highly migratory fish stocks of 4 August 1995, whose provisions complement and reinforce the Declaration on the Marine Environment adopted at the III Meeting of Member States of the Zone;

37. Encourage Member States to effectively implement, nationally and regionally, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington DC in November 1995, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

38. Express their concern at the increase of the illegal drug trafficking in or through countries of the Zone, and affirm their commitment to develop a programme of cooperation with a view to assisting one another in the effort to monitor and eliminate the existing drug trafficking routes affecting the security of the countries of the Zone. In this context they agreed to cooperate in the exchange of information on drug traffickers and their illegal activities in the countries of the Zone in order to stem the tide of drug-related crimes and violence;

39. Urge Member States which have not acceded to or ratified the three main United Nations Drug Conventions, to do so as soon as possible. Member States are also called upon to promulgate and adopt domestic legislation which should satisfy the provisions of the United Nations Drug Conventions. Member States should further consider possible measures for dealing with the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking;

40. Urge Member States to support the efforts of specialised institutions on Aids, Research and Education with a view to halting the spread of the Aids

pandemic;

41. Express their conviction that the Zone will continue to be an active instrument for enhancing intra regional and inter-regional cooperation and, in this respect, commit themselves to promoting the objectives of the Zone;

42. Express their gratitude to the people of South Africa for their hospitality and to the Government for hosting the IV Meeting of the Member States of the Zone;

43. Congratulate the Government of South Africa for the strong support provided to the objectives of the Zone and its vitality.

44. Welcome the offer made by the Government of Argentina, to host the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the ZPCSA.

Annex II

DECISIONS OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STATES OF THE ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

DECISION ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

The representatives of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), gathered in Somerset West on the 1st and 2nd of April, 1996;

Evaluating the new aspects of the international scene, important among which is the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs as a threat to the health and well-being of their peoples and to the democratic stability of their Governments;

Conscious of the need to take joint action, of a regional scope, with the objective of curbing the perverse effect of the dynamics of drug traffic and of ensuring better standards of living for their peoples;

Noting the convening of a joint SADC/EU Regional Conference on Illicit Cross-border Drug Trafficking, held in Mmabatho, South Africa, between 30 October - 2 November 1995;

1. Reaffirm their desire to co-operate closely in the control of demand, production and illicit traffic of narcotics in the ZPCSA and to contribute to the completion of the objective of the proposed anti-drug initiative.

2. Welcome the adoption of an anti-drug initiative for cooperation in the field of narcotic control, to be developed and implemented within the framework of the Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic.

3. Request the United Nations Drug Control Program to examine forms of assistance to be granted in the framework of the proposed anti-drug initiative.

4. Emphasize the need for strengthening co-operation among member states of the ZPCSA and their law enforcement agencies and within international and regional organisations, in the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, and psychotropic substances.

DECISION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The representatives of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic ("the Zone"), meeting in Somerset West on 1 and 2 April 1996;

Reaffirming the principles and purposes set forth in the Declaration on the Marine Environment adopted at the III Meeting of the Member States of the Zone (Brasilia, 1994);

RECOGNIZE that in order to adopt effective measures to preserve the marine environment of the Zone, information on any fact or activity that may have an impact on the marine environment of the Zone should be exchanged and disseminated among the Member States through the Chair. To that effect Member States of the Zone will indicate within the next six months national focal points to which such information will be conveyed by the Chair;

DECIDE that, on the basis of the information received, Member States may request the Chair to convene a meeting of the ZPCSA Permanent Committee to examine the case and submit specific proposals;

ENCOURAGE Member States that have not done so, to ratify or adhere to multilateral conventions and protocols dealing with the protection and preservation of marine environment, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter; and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL);

RECOMMEND that Member States of the Zone carry out consultations among themselves with the view to coordinating their positions in international conferences and other international fora, on matters relevant to the Zone, in particular the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

DECIDE to examine at the Fifth meeting of the Member States the need and possibility to establish a monitoring system to control and prevent the dumping of hazardous and other harmful materials into the Zone. To that effect Member States are requested to submit to the Chair written views for their consideration at the Fifth Meeting.

DECISION ON ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE ZONE

The representatives of the Member States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (the Zone), meeting in Somerset West on 1 and 2 April 1996;

DECIDE to examine at its V Meeting the possibility of establishing cooperative ways and means in support of the surveillance of illegal fishing activities, and invite the current Chair to prepare a report thereon.